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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NATIONAL LIBRARY

SPEECH

OF

HON. S. D. FESSION
OF OHIO

IN THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 29, 1920



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1921

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SPEECH OF HON. S. D. FESS.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS—THE WORLD'S GREATEST NATIONAL LIBRARY.

Mr. FESS. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, when I asked one or two Members of the House for their views as to whether a statement of the Congressional Library in its organization and in its work would be of value to the Members of the House, I was assured that such a statement might be advisable and might be interesting. At the time I was not aware of the character of the program I was to follow.

The House of Representatives has been eulogized in the hour preceding, largely because of the personal element that enters into the membership of the body; and yet all that was said that was of value by any Member that spoke is distinctively of less importance than what is not said. Uncle JOE CANNON owes it to his country, and especially to the membership of this House, in the past and present and to be, to reduce to writing in the form of reminiscences the interesting episodes that will supply the finest source of history during the greater period of our national development.

And whatever has been said about the wonderful career of this wonderful man, that which has not been uttered and which, I fear, will not be written or spoken is of most importance. Members of this body have pleaded with the distinguished ex-Speaker over and over again to take the time to put into permanent shape, in form of reminiscences covering these 43 years, the richest source of American history available. I fear that we will not get it. The Library across the way is to-day rich because of the valuable papers it contains that represent the utterances of the great statesmen, many of which were made at random. It contains utterances of a dozen of our Presidents whose papers we have, and which are recognized of the greatest importance to the country. We have also utterances of some of the greatest editors, like Charles A. Dana, whose reminiscences of the Civil War, touching the inner life of Abraham Lincoln, supply the finest picture of that great character now extant; and how rich would be the acquisition covering the last 50 years if Uncle JOE CANNON would put in form and have placed in the Library the richness of his public life that none of us knows much about except as a fugitive story here and there. If this is lost to our country, it will be a great mistake.

East of the Capitol stands the most beautiful building in the world, the creation of the genius of the architect, sculptor, and painter. Within its walls is found a collection of publications which is rapidly overtaking the Bibliotheque Nationale of Paris

The bequest of
Daniel Murray,
Washington, D. C.
1925

and the British Museum of London, the only other libraries which exceed in number of books the Congressional Library.

In this Library is found the world's greatest collection of musical composition, as well as the first rank in the number of maps. The Library, hence, is not only the most superb in its beauty of design, but its arrangement for practical use is the most complete. The building covers $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres and has 8 acres of floor space. It has 100 miles of shelving to accommodate 3,500,000 volumes, which may be extended to at least twice that amount. The library service in delivering books operates almost like a metallic mind.

Like all other great institutions, this had its small and insignificant beginning. It started some time before the beginning of the last century with the appointment of a committee to report on need and selection of suitable books. Five thousand dollars was appropriated in 1800. Beckley, of Virginia, was appointed librarian by Jefferson in 1802. The first catalogue was of nine pages, prepared in 1802, the Library then containing 964 volumes and 9 maps, classified on the basis of size into quarters, octavos, and so forth. The purpose of the Library was stated by Senator Mitchell in 1806 to be "to furnish the Library with such materials as will enable statesmen to be correct in their investigations, and by a becoming display of erudition and research give a higher dignity and a brighter luster to truth."

The catalogue of 1812 contained titles of 3,076 volumes and 53 maps and charts. When the Capitol was burned in 1814 by the British, the Library had cost all told about \$9,000 for books and operation. The librarian's salary was at first \$2 per day. The Library was destroyed August 24, and on September 21 Jefferson wrote from his home tendering his library to Congress. The committee was authorized by act of Congress to purchase the 7,000 volumes for \$23,950, which was done in January, 1815. Jefferson catalogued the library, which was later declared by Spofford as "an admirable selection of the best ancient and modern literature up to the beginning of the present century." These books were hauled from Monticello to Washington in farm wagons.

From 1815 to 1851 the Library grew from 7,000 to 55,000 volumes.

On the evening of December 22, 1825, Edward Everett discovered a fire in the galleries of the Library, and he, assisted by Daniel Webster and other Members of Congress, put it out. In 1851 a second fire destroyed all but 20,000 volumes of the then handsome collection of 55,000 volumes. Only one-third of the Jefferson collection was saved. Congress at once took steps to rebuild the loss. Before the year was ended in several specific acts it had appropriated \$263,700 for the purpose. Ten years later a general catalogue of 1,398 pages was published. In 1869 the last complete catalogue, arranged by subjects, was published in two volumes of 1,744 pages.

The card catalogue was adopted about 1865, and was perfected from time to time to its present wonderfully serviceable system.

In 1864 A. R. Spofford was selected as librarian, and that year might be taken as the beginning of the third stage of Congressional Library history. Congress sympathetically responded to legislative demands. Frequent appropriations were

voted and many private collections were secured after the fashion of the famous beginning in 1815. Three years after the selection of Spofford, Congress authorized the purchase of the valuable collection of Americana from Peter Force. It contained 60,000 volumes and cost \$100,000. It was regarded as a rare collection of books and pamphlets on American subjects, manuscripts, newspapers, maps, autographs, and so forth. About the same time the vast collection of the Smithsonian Institution, comprising 40,000 volumes, was transferred to the Congressional Library. It contained invaluable publications of the various learned societies throughout the world with which the Institution had exchange arrangements. These publications contained works on natural history, the fine arts, linguistics, bibliography, and so forth.

Accessions were constantly made, among which were, in 1866, the Petigru law library; 1882, the manuscript papers of Benjamin Franklin; 1883, the Matthew-Carpenter law library; 1882, the Toner collection of 27,000 volumes, which collection contained, among other invaluable publications, an almost complete collection of copies of letters and papers of Gen. Washington, copied from every available source, whether published or unpublished.

As far back as 1846 a provision of the copyright law required a deposit in the Library of one copy of every book, map, chart, musical composition, print, cut, or engraving that was copyrighted. In 1870 the law required two copies deposited. This requirement insured the Congressional Library as the most complete repository of the American press in existence. This is one, if not the chief, source of accessions, which reaches now about 1,200 per month.

It was the ambition of Mr. Spofford, denominated by Editor Bowker, of the Library Journal, as the "eighth wonder of the world," to personally serve every Member of both House and Senate. Many are the stories told of this wonderful man, who seemed to know not only where every book was on the shelf but just where to find anything in any book demanded by the legislator. Perhaps no man in Washington was so well and favorably known as this man, and certainly no man more widely served the great and distinguished figures of his generation, whose service was the favorable comment of the statesmen of his time.

Only yesterday one of the attendants in the Congressional Library, who has served there 30 years, told me an incident where Senator David B. Hill, of New York, came to the Library looking for something in relation to Blackstone's Commentaries. He spent over two hours in the research. Just as he was passing out he passed Mr. Spofford, who asked him if he had found what he wanted. Senator Hill replied that he had not. Mr. Spofford wanted to know what it was, and when the Senator told him, he said, "Wait a moment, probably I can help you," and within five minutes he handed to the Senator a volume with the page containing the information which the Senator wanted.

I remember a very interesting incident that is told in connection with Mr. Spofford when a gentleman appeared asking for certain information on the Ordnance of 1787. Mr. Spofford took down volume after volume, passed it over to the research man, and as the research man took the volume, he said, "It

is not in this; I have examined that before." Mr. Spofford finally said, "I can not help you; I regret it," and when the gentleman started out Mr. Spofford said, "Wait a minute, if you care to take the time you might go to Marietta, Ohio and look up Prof. Andrews, who is the best-informed man on the Ordnance of 1787 that I know of. If he can not give it to you, I do not know where you can find it." The gentleman blushed and said, "I am Prof. Andrews myself."

Many interesting incidents could be hunted up from the older people here in Washington concerning this remarkable figure, who served personally in the Library, which at that time was just off the rotunda under the dome.

While the purpose of the Library was originally limited to the service of the legislative department, under Spofford it soon extended to both the Supreme Court and the Executive, including the various departments and numerous bureaus under the departments. The growth was so constant that all available space where it was housed in the Capitol Building was occupied. In 1897, when the Library was moved to the new quarters, 600,000 volumes were crowded into a space allotted for but 400,000 volumes. The rapid growth dates from the entrance of Spofford, to whose genius was due not only the fine response of the public, both official and nonofficial, but also to the plans and execution which resulted in the most complete and superb library building of the world.

Agitation for a new library building began back in 1873. Discussion continued somewhat intermittently for 13 years. In 1886 authority was given to purchase a site, which cost \$585,000. An appropriation of \$500,000 was made to begin the construction.

The original plans were outlined by Architect Smithmeyer. Later the construction was placed under the direction of Gen. Thomas L. Casey, of the Army. The architectural designs were worked out by Paul J. Pelz and Edward P. Casey. In 1896, upon the death of Gen. Casey, Bernard R. Green took up and completed the building. The total cost was \$6,347,000, exclusive of the site, which cost \$585,000. A library which had numbered about 75,000 volumes in 1864, when Spofford came to its head, had grown to nearly 1,000,000 volumes by 1897, when it was transferred to its new home in September of that year.

The housing of the collection of books in the most beautiful building in the world was the realization of the dream of Mr. Spofford, who expressed the wish to leave the responsibility of its expansion to other heads. The former crowded quarters had given way to a wonderfully commodious structure of about 10,000,000 cubic feet of space, where 2,000 readers can be accommodated at one time in the midst of one of the world's greatest collections of books, pamphlets, maps, and so forth. Mr. Spofford asked to be relieved and was made a sort of librarian emeritus, with Mr. John Russel Young as librarian. In this position Spofford continued to his death in 1908. Two years after his appointment Mr. Young died. President McKinley sought the best possible talent, which was found in Dr. Herbert Putnam, the librarian of the Boston Public Library. Dr. Putnam was the first specially trained librarian to be selected, and he, at the request of the President, accepted the position, although at a substantial financial sacrifice.

His service during these more than 20 years is another of the many evidences of President McKinley's remarkable talent to call to the service of the Government a high grade of ability.

I am not going into the financial side of this Library; I am not going to put this statement into the form of begging an appropriation. But I know the membership of the House will be more or less concerned of the material appreciation of the expert men that are found in this building just across the way.

With this appointment of Mr. Putnam began the fourth stage of the growth of the Congressional Library. Up to this time the chief activity was confined to the collection of publications and the service of the Government here in the Capital. With the advent of Dr. Putnam began the present remarkable library organization. In 1897 several divisions had already been organized; among them were the following:

1. Division of Manuscript, now employing 4 persons.
2. Division of Maps and Charts, now employing 6 persons.
3. Division of Music, now employing 6 persons.
4. Division of Prints, with 5 persons.
5. Division of Copyright, with 91 employed at present.

The Cataloguing Division was created in 1899.

The Order Division was organized in 1900 and now employs 13 persons.

In 1901 were organized the following:

1. The Card Distribution Section, employing at present 69 persons. The stock now numbers over 60,000,000 cards.

2. The Periodical Division. The total number of periodicals received is beyond 13,000. Over 1,000 newspapers are received; 275 foreign. It employs 12 persons.

The reading room has seating capacity for 250 readers who have access to over 400 newspapers and more than 3,500 magazines. Three hundred and seventy-five newspapers are bound and now found on the shelves. It employs at present 72 persons.

3. The Documents Division. More than 40,000 documents are annually received. At least 10,000 are foreign and about the same number are from the various States in the Union. It employs 7 persons.

The last 20 years have witnessed the development of this Government institution into a genuine national library. This has been the ambition of the present librarian who has already realized his dream. Dr. Putnam clearly distinguished the function of the municipal library, the State library, and the university library on the one hand from that of the national library on the other. Each of the three former serves a constituency not within the purview of the national library.

The head of the Library planned to make the national library serve the entire country through other libraries in the following ways:

1. By the sale and deposit of catalogue cards, of which there are now in stock 60,000,000.
2. Interlibrary loans by which any person, in however remote part of our country, can secure through the local library books from the national library.
3. Distribution of the publications, including its bibliographies.
4. By cooperation in publication.

In this way the research investigator is not limited to the books on the shelves in his local library. In every library center can be found a card catalogue of the Congressional Library, which informs the attendants and patrons of the various centers of the collections of the national library. This organizes the library centers into one stupendous library system, with Washington as the center as a general clearing house for library information throughout the Nation. It thus serves the general reader, who is not limited to the authorities found in the Congressional Library, enormous as are the present sources, numbering in the collection 2,831,333 books and pamphlets, 166,448 maps, 829,400 volumes and pieces of music, and the 418,976 prints. Through the interlibrary arrangement he has access to the collection of about 3,000 libraries scattered throughout the Nation.

By international arrangement, with some additional inconvenience, he also has access to some of the world's greatest libraries outside of the United States. This arrangement exists with 138 libraries, from 24 countries.

The conception of a great national library was announced by the librarian soon after his induction. In 1905 he set out the functions in a report in which he referred to fields of research as follows:

1. A library for special service to the Federal Government.
2. A library of record for the United States.
3. A library of research, supplementing other research libraries.
4. A library for national service; a library which shall respond to demands from any part of the country in the aid of research.

This ambitious program has now been realized.

The municipal library serves an entirely different purpose from the university library. The State library serves a purpose that probably would be served by both university and municipal. A university library is primarily for research, very much like the library in the various governmental departments. Several of the departments support the finest libraries of this kind in the world.

I have a list of the libraries that are using the national library's stock of cards. It runs very closely to 3,000 libraries. I also have a list of the foreign libraries that are using the Library of Congress. I think there are by actual count 39 libraries of foreign countries that draw upon this library here in this Capital for research work. I here append the list:

Number of subscribers to Library Catalogue cards by countries and States.

UNITED STATES.

Alabama	20
Alaska	1
Arizona	10
Arkansas	9
California	195
Colorado	36
Connecticut	64
Delaware	16
District of Columbia	178
Florida	14
Georgia	38
Idaho	18
Illinois	192
Indiana	94
Iowa	68

Kansas	43
Kentucky	20
Louisiana	15
Maine	35
Maryland	34
Massachusetts	239
Michigan	90
Minnesota	79
Mississippi	8
Missouri	76
Montana	24
Nebraska	27
Nevada	6
New Hampshire	29
New Jersey	67
New Mexico	6
New York	380
North Carolina	33
North Dakota	16
Ohio	145
Oklahoma	26
Oregon	23
Pennsylvania	143
Rhode Island	26
South Carolina	12
South Dakota	22
Tennessee	29
Texas	36
Utah	22
Vermont	24
Virginia	38
Washington	34
West Virginia	27
Wisconsin	96
Wyoming	8

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Australia	4
Austria	1
Bermuda Islands	1
Brazil	1
British Africa	1
British Isles	18
Canada	49
China	14
Cuba	4
Denmark	1
Finland	1
Formosa Islands	1
France	2
Germany	3
Hawaii	7
India	6
Japan	14
Norway	1
Palestine	1
Philippines	2
Porto Rico	2
Spain	1
Switzerland	2
Syria	1
Total for United States (including Alaska)	2,991
Total for foreign countries	138
Grand total	3,129

The foreign list does not include many municipal libraries in the Old World with which we have affiliation.

Out of this Congressional Library go books to States from Maine to California for research advancement only. It is serving in a research way every remote section of the country. It is not primarily for readers, nor is it for self-cultivation. This Congressional Library is not a circulating library such as the city or municipal library, whose collection of books are for

cultural reading, for delight, or self-cultivation. A library like the one on Massachusetts Avenue and K Street will show a greater circulation of books than the National Library. But the book that goes out from the National Library goes to research men, whether here or elsewhere, who become stimulated thereby to writing books, results of investigations, which multiply the books that fill such libraries as this in the city of Washington. So when we examine a list of the books that go out of the Congressional Library to the various libraries of the country, it is not the number that is significant but the quality.

GROWTH OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

The growth of the library has been almost phenomenal as seen in the light of the small expense. It is rapidly overtaking all other collections, and will soon have first rank in number of volumes of books, as it already has in Americana, in music material, American imprints, official documents of all countries, and of the publications of learned societies throughout the world. There are three principal sources of this growth:

1. Copyright deposits, two copies of each copyrighted publication.

2. International exchange of official documents, to satisfy which the library is allowed 100 copies of each official publication of our Government.

3. Returns from the exchange of the Smithsonian Institution.

Other sources, such as donations and purchases, add to the collections, such as the Russian and Chinese collections, each of which is doubtless one of the richest outside of those countries.

It would seem reasonable to expect public-spirited men in many countries where America is appreciated would follow the example of Yudin and others and donate valuable collections of publications for permanent use through this great research institution. Certainly in no other way could better use be made of source material. Likewise could no place be found where better care would be taken to insure the realization of the donor's purpose. It is to be hoped that the example set by Smithson back in the forties, which made possible the Smithsonian Institution, in many respects without a parallel, and the example of Yudin may be followed by other foreigners, and especially by many Americans who possess collections of rare value.

Fellow Members of the House, perhaps it is not known to many of you that over here in the Library we have the richest collection of Russian books outside of Russia. The collection includes certain manuscript records of the early Russian settlement in Alaska. In pure literature the Library includes the best edition of every important Russian writer. Even the fine arts are fairly represented, especially notable being a set of the Rovinski publications, perhaps the most nearly complete in existence. It probably is not known to many Members of the House that over in the Congressional Library is the finest collection of Chinese books that is found anywhere outside the Empire of China. This collection was commenced with books brought over here by Caleb Cushing, the first United States minister to China under President Tyler. It contains volumes that can not be duplicated. The Choo He History, 100 and 110 volumes; the History of the Eight Banners, 314 volumes; three sets of Kang Hee's Dictionary, 40 volumes; and a dictionary of classical

expressions, 120 volumes, are among the notable possessions. Some of them are not to be found anywhere outside of China.

Perhaps it is not known to many that the Library contains a fine collection of Japanese books. It was started with a collection of 9,000 volumes, and is rapidly growing.

The Government has never become a book collector in the sense of the book fancier, which does not stand on cost. It expends only a meager sum for additions, something less than \$100,000 per year. It consequently can not procure the rich, rare book or manuscript, which can only be had at a price. However, it does procure photostatic copies where such is allowable and available. This has come to be a valuable feature of library service here in the Capital.

PHOTOSTATIC REPRODUCTIONS.

Among the richest collections in various parts of the world no duplicates can be had at any price. They are not in existence. This is why the old libraries of Europe and Asia are so priceless in value. Destruction of these sources would deprive the world of these riches, as they could not be reproduced. The nearest possibility of reproduction is through the photostatic process, which has been introduced quite extensively in the National Library.

When it can not secure the manuscript, it frequently has the privilege of photographing it, and in this way all sorts of invaluable information is secured by this new plan of seeking the next thing to the rare manuscript—its photograph.

Some days ago we were discussing the question of presidential disability, and in looking up the bibliography on it we found that back in 1881 the North American Review had printed four articles from four distinguished men on the subject of presidential disability. We looked the Library over, and could not find it. It was finally found by the Library in some place here in the city, and immediately the Library took a photostatic copy of it and supplied it to Members of the House, and it is now in the Library. I was shown only this morning this remarkable apparatus, which is one of the very valuable additions to a real national library, and which is to come into more general use in supplying photographs of valuable documents now in the Library, desired by many away from Washington.

THE WORK OF HIGHLY TRAINED EXPERTS.

When the present librarian came to the head of the Library he had only to add to the facilities of the collections, housed in the most commodious of buildings, a library organization to make it a truly national library. This has been done at a comparatively small expense. In this organization there are less than 600 persons employed, including 148 under the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds. Among these are to be found the highest grade of scholarship and trained expert service. They include classifiers—that is a term that would not be very intelligible to the average Member of Congress unless he would make some study of its significance. Here is a sample of classification work. Here is a volume of 597 pages on the subject of social science. Science is only one field of investigation of the boundless fields for research and which becomes a very small part of the whole field. Social science, the title of this volume, is only one little nook of the field of science. The volume

contains only the titles. I picked it up in the Library just as an example of intensive work. I might want to find what has been written and printed and what is now available on the subject of social science, not confined to our Library, but extending to the world libraries. Here it is. If I want to find what is in the British Museum on that subject, if I know the key to this volume, I can locate it and then by our international inter-library arrangement, I know how to proceed. I can not secure the book from those old libraries in Europe, as they are purely reference libraries and must be consulted on the spot. However, they can secure the book from us. We are one of the few libraries carrying on such service. If I wish the information in Europe's great libraries I can have some one look the matter up for me. This volume is the work of the classifier, and displays the endless field in which he now works in attempting to notify the reader what has been published and to make it easily available.

THE WORK OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHER.

We have been talking on the subject of dyestuffs. The bibliography of dyestuff in the volume which I hold in my hand, and which has recently been prepared and published, contains 185 pages. The bibliographer does not serve the general reader. The general reader is served in the general reading room over here. That is the first step in public education through the Library. The bibliographer serves the research man who wants to know what has been written on these subjects, and his business is such as keeping a record of all bibliographical work, past and present; second, preparing a list of references on all popular questions; third, through the Catalogue Division prepare and publish a bibliographical record of every book which will find a place on the shelves of the Library. But, besides the bibliographer, the research man must have the interpreter. A Member of the House told me the other day that he became involved in a very serious dispute upon a matter of fact that was found in the Spanish language. He did not know just how to settle it. He spoke to me, and not being a Spanish student and not being able to read the original, I said to him, "Go to the Library and in five minutes you will find a man who will give you a translation, and you can have it before you in perfect English." It does not matter what language it is, they have that research ability over here in our Library. Men and women over there, gentlemen, are working like worms and you have never seen them unless you have gone where they are. They are doing in the most quiet way the most important work in research, and making it possible for Members of Congress to utilize the stored-up wisdom of the ages through the result of their research, as noble work as can be found anywhere in the world.

Cataloguers, bibliographers, interpreters, and scholars in various lines of research, science, language, literature, and other fields, calling for the trained specialist. Through these channels the legislator can have brought to his assistance at once necessary data, without which he could not act with the highest degree of intelligence based upon accurate information. A controverted issue involving a dispute which turns upon some event, the only record of which may be locked up in a foreign language, can easily be cleared up within an hour or two of time, in which the experts will lay a translation of the record before you.

Mr. BLANTON. Will my distinguished friend yield?

Mr. FESS. I will yield to my friend.

Mr. BLANTON. I just wanted to pay a tribute to Mr. Washington, who used to be there and who used to render valuable services to every Member of this House who called upon him. As I have said once before, he has stayed there and worked until the wee small hours of the morning to my certain knowledge on several occasions, and I thought it was only due to his memory to say that in his behalf.

Mr. FESS. I thank my friend for his utterance of appreciation. The House showed it by advancing the salary up to the time that he was the custodian.

Mr. BLANTON. But the House showed it, the distinguished gentleman will remember, after he was dead and gone in paying it to his widow.

Mr. FESS. The House showed it before he died in a handsome advance.

Mr. BLANTON. But considering the kind of services he performed, even that advance was hardly worth mentioning.

Mr. FESS. Well, I would not say it was not worth mentioning, but it was not commensurate with his work, I will admit.

One of the surprising features, aside from the talent of the expert, is the wonderful facility in serving the reader, whether within the Library Building or the Chamber of the House or Senate. Any book may be handed the reader in the reading room within three minutes after the order. It can be delivered to the Congressman in the Capitol within 15 minutes after the order.

WASHINGTON RAPIDLY BECOMING THE WORLD'S GREATEST CENTER FOR SCHOLARSHIP.

It may not be known to all Members of the House that here in Washington, connected with the various research divisions of the Government, are located the greatest group of great scholars that can be found in any other center in all the world.

I want to emphasize that statement. It is absolutely true. These scholars are associated with the various governmental departments, each of which has special library facility for its use. There are a score of such special libraries which a dozen years ago contained considerably over a million volumes of books and pamphlets. Among them the libraries of the Surgeon General's Office, the Agricultural Department, the Bureau of Education, the Bureau of Standards, the Fish Commission, and the Geological Survey are the finest of their kind in the world. However, the Congressional Library contains not an insignificant portion of the force of experts to be found in Washington.

I asked an authority some days ago whether it was wise to collect all the libraries within one building and place them under the control of the Library of Congress. The answer was in the negative; that they all ought to be affiliated with the national library, as they are, but that we do not have room over here, and that the libraries can be better used for the purposes of research where they are now located.

Mr. OLDFIELD. Will the gentleman yield for a question right there?

Mr. FESS. I yield to my friend.

Mr. OLDFIELD. You speak of these libraries in the departments. Does not the Congressional Library have a copy of each of the books that these other libraries have?

Mr. FESS. It has not a copy. It has a good many duplicates, but these libraries have a good many books that the Congressional Library does not have at all. I had that information this morning.

Mr. OLDFIELD. I was under the impression that the national library had copies of all books in the departmental libraries.

Mr. FESS. There are a great many books that they do not have duplicates of. One of the libraries on the Mall, the Surgeon General's library, is distinctly the finest collection of books of that sort that can be found anywhere in the world, and it is housed in rather a shabby building. I think there should be a fireproof building to house that library, for if it were lost it could not be duplicated.

THE ONE GREAT OBSTACLE TO OVERCOME.

The one obstacle thus far is the inadequate salary allowed. It is such that constant injury is suffered by the loss of this service to other fields, which has some compensation by making this Library the training school for library work throughout the country.

A very significant incident of that sort came to my attention a few days ago. The man who was found wonderfully fitted both by nature and by acquired training to build up the musical collection over here came at a low salary which reached its height in \$3,000 per annum. He stayed here until he had brought this collection to the first rank in the world, not only in number of collection but especially in the character of the constituent parts of the collection, in its organization, and so forth. He was offered a superb salary, perhaps \$10,000, to go to the head of some great firm, and two years ago he left the Library. Of course, we could not keep him. And while that is rather an exceptional case, it not being common, it represents what we have to face in this expert service.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE SERVICE.

The most recently added division is the legislative reference service, to assist the legislator in assembling data on questions involving important legislation and also in assisting in drafting bills. During the closing year 1,604 inquiries were made of this service. The character of work of this service is displayed by what it was called upon to do. For example, on the question of public finance by those interested in budget legislation the following list of inquiries is suggestive:

An outline of the budget systems of Latin-American countries.

A survey of the methods of budgetary procedure in France, Germany, and Great Britain.

Data on Gladstone's independent audit reform of 1866.

Recent criticisms in England of certain phases of the British budget system.

A list of the committees in Congress having jurisdiction over reporting bills appropriating money for running the Government.

Extracts giving comprehensive comment on the proposed national budget system for the Federal Government.

Historical sketch of the powers of the Secretary of the Treasury over the annual estimates from 1789 to 1874.

Brief digest of Federal statutes relating to the keeping of the departmental accounts.

A digest of all Federal statutes relating to the annual estimates of appropriations.

A brief description of the various budget systems in the various State governments.

The number of States with a single budget committee with jurisdiction over appropriations.

Facts regarding the effect of the operation of the Illinois State budget system on the governmental organization and on the expenditures from the treasury.

Statistical statement showing total expenditures by the United States Government for all purposes from 1789 to 1919.

A summary of expenditures of the United States Government by all the departments for the fiscal years 1917, 1918, and 1919.

Facts regarding the repayment of principal and interest of the allied debt to the United States.

Total national wealth and public debt of the leading countries of the world.

A comparative statement of the total taxes collected in the principal foreign countries from 1914 to 1919.

Brief history of the public debt of the United States.

Brief history of the bonds of the French and Italian Governments for the past 50 years.

Facts regarding the taxation of incomes and excess profits in foreign countries.

Proposed amendments to the French luxury tax.

To what extent have the Governments of foreign countries imposed a tax on retail sales.

Extracts from the debates in the British Parliament on the post-war tax policy of the Government.

Facts regarding the tax policies of the leading foreign countries in 1919.

Extent of coal and oil lands and metallic ores taxed in foreign countries and in the States in the United States.

A list of the States having income and inheritance tax laws.

Amount of revenue collected through the tax on bank checks during the Civil and Spanish-American Wars.

The amount of taxes collected by the different States of the Union in the year 1919.

Statement on the judicial interpretation of the term "direct taxes."

A brief discussion of the taxing power of boards or commissions.

This list suggests the comprehensive character as well as the supreme importance of the work of this service. Similar lists can be shown on various other topics, such as military affairs and diplomatic questions. The importance of this service will become apparent as Members become acquainted with the facilities supplied by it.

The above is a list of titles, or rather of subjects of inquiry, from Members of the House and Senate on the one subject of public finance. It covers a tremendous field of inquiry, and the same thing can be duplicated on the question of diplomatic relations during this discussion on the peace imbroglio and the same on questions touching military affairs during our discussion as to reorganization of the Army. The number of in-

quiries is not the significant fact, but the character of the inquiries. And now, fellow Members, I wish you to get this distinction in library service, that the general reading room serves the general library purpose. The bibliographic division goes a step beyond and serves the research man. It does not supply the research man with information. It supplies him with the "where you can find it." In other words, the bibliographic function is best expressed by the answer of the famous judge who was asked by a brilliant young lawyer about a certain fact in law, when the judge replied to him, "Come to my office and I will at once look it up." The brilliant young barrister said to him, "Judge, I am not going to your office to take your time. I supposed you could just answer that without any effort at all." The judge replied, "Young man, the real test of a lawyer is not the law he knows, but his ability to find out what he does not know."

Now, that is the bibliographer's function, and that work over in the Library is very important and stupendous in its reach. But beyond that, and to you and me vastly more important than that, is the legislative reference service, which goes beyond telling us where we can find the information, which if we were left to pursue we would be lost in the Library, but this service lays before you the material it has searched out and which if we had to locate it would take a lifetime to find, especially if we should go in there without training in that particular service.

Oliver Wendell Holmes was once asked upon returning from Europe, having said to some one that he had visited the British Museum, as to how long it would take a man to become acquainted with the contents of that museum. He said, "He ought to be born in the museum, to start with, and live to be 80 years old, and never leave it." Likewise the average Congressman who would want to look up data supporting pro and con a piece of legislation that would undertake to get at the bottom of it by his own research to find out what has been written would not have time to cover it, even if he had a disposition to do it. And I express the hope that this new field, started only a short time ago, in response to House and Senate committees working on legislation and doing a remarkably important piece of work, will receive ready support, because it certainly must not be discontinued, but should be enthusiastically indorsed as one of the newest and most important divisions of a great national institution. This support should be commensurate with the growth of demands as they come upon the Members for legislation.

RECAPITULATION.

Now, Members of the House, I have taken as much time as I care on the general subject of the Library. I ask the privilege to make a brief recapitulation of what I have attempted to say:

The Library is still third in dimension, but overtaking the first two—Bibliotheque Nationale and British Museum. In point of quality it can not overtake them, for they have material original in form which it can never secure. But it tries as far as possible to secure the substance of this, most important to an American investigator, by copies and facsimiles, especially material relating to American history. It thus saves many an investigator a trip abroad or directs him where he should go to best advantage.

It gets and preserves many volumes not suitable for a local library. The result is to save local libraries the expense of getting and accommodating those books. For under the system of interlibrary loan they are made available to investigators throughout the United States.

In this respect the Library of Congress differs from national libraries abroad, such as the British Museum and the famous Paris library, which are purely reference libraries, which must be consulted on the spot.

Its printed cards represent a service which is also unique, the one successful attempt on a general scale to centralize once for all the expense of (1) cataloguing books and (2) of maintaining the catalogue entries.

In addition it is (1) a legislative library for Congress; (2) the main reference library for the executive departments and bureaus; (3) the law library of the Supreme Court; (4) the Copyright Office of the United States; and (5) the national library to serve a special service for the entire country.

Its reference readers number as many as those in the British Museum or the Bibliotheque Nationale; but the facilities accorded them, for example, of direct access to the shelves, surpass those of any other considerable reference library whatever. Unlike the Bibliotheque Nationale and British Museum, which close at sundown, the National Library is open till 10 o'clock every evening, and on Sundays from 2 until 10.

Its building is in cubic area about 10,000,000 cubic feet, equal to that of the Capitol. In floor area it greatly exceeds it. Its shelving capacity is sufficient to accommodate 3,500,000 volumes and can be increased to double that number.

This building is one of the most notable of modern architectural achievements and equally notable for the nicety with which it is maintained—a model in this respect for all public buildings.

A trip through the Library at any time, and through the workshops, through the various divisions—and they are numerous—will show you that where you would expect an immense amount of accumulation of dirt instead a place immaculately clean.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALSH). The time of the gentleman from Ohio has expired.

Mr. BLANTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman may be permitted to conclude.

Mr. FESS. I think I can conclude in 10 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas asks unanimous consent that the gentleman from Ohio may proceed for 10 additional minutes. Is there objection? [After a pause.] The Chair hears none.

Mr. DENISON. Will the gentleman from Ohio yield?

Mr. FESS. I will.

Mr. DENISON. I assume the British Museum and the National Museum of France have a lot of rare historical volumes; of course, that can not be duplicated anywhere in the world, and that the Library of Congress does not possess?

Mr. FESS. That is true.

Mr. DENISON. Does the gentleman know whether or not those Governments permit others to take photograph copies of those books, so that our Library can secure them?

Mr. FESS. I know that is done on a limited scale, but I should judge there are manuscripts they would not permit to be photographed.

Mr. DENISON. I would judge that to be the case. I understand that some of our original documents, like the Constitution, can not now be photographed any longer.

Mr. FESS. I am not sure that they can not, but I am rather of the opinion that they can not.

By the way, there is one line of work done in the Library that every Member of Congress ought to be acquainted with, and that is the repairing and rebuilding of manuscripts that are being eaten or being destroyed. I saw that process. That is a very valuable and very unusual work.

Mr. RHODES. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield there?

The SPEAKER. Does the gentleman yield?

Mr. FESS. I yield to my friend from Missouri.

Mr. RHODES. I followed the gentleman's remarks with unusual interest, and I remember he said the Library Building is the most beautiful building of its kind in the world. Has the gentleman stated in what year the present building was erected?

Mr. FESS. The law providing for the erection of the building was passed in 1886, and in that year \$500,000 was appropriated to proceed with the construction, and it was finished in 1897.

While in material of distinction the Library can not match the great libraries abroad, it has already in certain fields collections of great significance and in a few preeminence, for example:

American history: Its collection of manuscripts, including the personal papers of a dozen of the Presidents, from Washington to Roosevelt and Taft.

Scientific societies: Transactions and proceedings, which come to it through the exchanges of the Smithsonian Institution; one of the largest and most nearly comprehensive of such collections in existence.

Newspapers and periodicals: Bound files; a very large and representative collection.

I did not verify the statement that we have a complete collection of the London Gazette, dating as far back as 1665, the oldest complete English newspaper in the Library and the only complete file in the country, neither did I verify the published statement that we have hundreds of volumes of the London Times, the file being complete from the beginning, 1795. May I ask my friend from Pennsylvania [Mr. TEMPLE] as to that? Does the gentleman know?

Mr. TEMPLE. No.

Mr. FESS. I have seen the statement, and I could have easily verified it, but it did not come to my mind when I had the opportunity. I am reading now the list in which we are pre-eminent as a library.

Public (official) documents: Of all countries, resulting from the international exchanges conducted by the Library itself.

And in special fields of literature, for example:

Americana: Including the results of copyright.

Political science.

Law.

And certain (unexpected) groups, for example:

Russia: The Yudin collection, 80,000 volumes, perhaps the most thorough outside of Russia.

China: One of the largest, and in certain respects certainly the richest, outside of China.

Its collection of music is probably the largest in the world. Developed for the needs of the serious investigator—composer, critic, historian, conductor—it is rendering signal service to such investigators in America. For instance, in no other institution in the world could the history of modern opera be studied or written as here.

Its collection of prints developed on its recent side by copyright, or its more classical side by gift, is constantly drawn upon for illustration, and the exhibits from it interest, inform, and influence thousands of visitors annually.

Its collection of maps is constantly drawn upon not merely in research but in litigation and public boundary disputes, for example: Venezuela and Alaska.

Its service to Congress includes—

1. The issue of books specifically asked for.
2. Lists of books responding to a particular inquiry.
3. Compilations furnishing, in brief, data upon a pending question in legislation.

This last is the function of the Legislative Reference Service established a few years ago; a service quite indispensable if Congress is to have full profit of the material in the collections. For this material, submerged in nearly 3,000,000 volumes, in numerous languages, can be extracted and reduced to available form only by men familiar with the collections and skilled in the use of the bibliographic apparatus. These men must be well grounded academically, good linguists, and with ability to express with precision the results obtained. Among them must be specialists in law, economics, and political science.

They must form a permanent corps, for the experience and ability is cumulative. Also the work requires bibliographic apparatus—indexes, and so forth—which must go on currently and be kept up.

There is no such thing as ever finishing the catalogue. That is an unending piece of work.

An efficient such corps, adequate in numbers, is indispensable to enable the Library to render to Congress the service to which it is entitled and which it can get in no other way.

I want the membership to get this statement: The cost of it, even at \$75,000 per annum, is relatively slight compared with its possible value as a tool in legislation.

PUBLICATIONS.

The major and most distinctive publication of the Library is its printed catalogue cards. But it has issued also—

1. "Select lists" of references to books, and so forth, dealing with topics under current discussion, especially in Congress, for example, lists on Cuba, Porto Rico, the Philippines, the Danish West Indies, and so forth; lists of arbitration, budgets, currency, Federal control, immigration, railroads, trusts, and so forth; and guides to the literature of the law of three foreign countries—Argentina, Germany, and Spain.

2. It has published in book form catalogues of certain groups of material; for example, of its American newspapers (files),

geographical atlases, orchestral music and operatic librettos, Hubbard collection (prints), Thacher collection (incunabula).

Also calendars of certain groups of manuscripts—for example, of the Crittenden, Paul Jones, Monroe, Pierce, Van Buren papers, and of certain of the Washington papers.

I think it would be a delight to any Member of Congress to spend a little time in looking over those valuable papers and letters of George Washington. They are very rare and can not be found in any other place in the world. These calendars are regarded invaluable accessions to the Library.

These catalogues and calendars have received high commendation as useful contributions to knowledge and research.

3. The publication in extenso of texts in its possession is not its policy. But it has made two exceptions. It has published the records of the Virginia Co., of London, of which the surviving text is in its keeping; and it has edited, and has in part published, the Journals of the Continental Congress, of which the originals are in its custody. Twenty-three volumes have thus far been issued, and the remainder, about 10 volumes, have been delayed only through insufficiency in the allotment for printing.

4. The rest of its publications are primarily administrative—for example, the catalogue of Copyright Entries (which costs \$35,000 per annum) and various manuals and handbooks to the use of the collections.

The editing of all of these publications has been done by the regular staff and has involved no especial appropriation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to call the attention of the membership of the House to the cost of this remarkable institution across the way.

COST.

The total appropriation for the library, the copyright office, and the care of the building and grounds is about \$720,000 per annum.

Against this are receipts, copyright fee, and proceeds of sales of the printed cards, totaling about \$200,000, so that the net outlay for the library is about \$520,000 per annum.

In addition, there is, however, the expense for printing and binding, for which the annual allotment has been about \$200,000.

The Government Printing Office has a branch office in the library, and the cost goes to the printing bill, but it is really for the library.

The cost of the land and building was about \$7,000,000, which is only half the cost of a battleship in the days when the library was built, and only a third of the cost of a battleship at the present time.

The annual expenditure is about equal to the cost of the upkeep of a modern battleship. In 15 years a battleship goes to the scrap heap.

The amount annually spent for books and other material for collections is about \$98,000. This barely suffices for the ordinary material, ordinary in form.

A single American collector, Henry Huntington, has during the past 15 years spent over \$10,000,000 in purchases for his private collection. There is not a book in this collection which should not be in the National Library of the United States, but the funds of the Library do not permit competition for the rarer material, even Americana.

The reference department alone of the New York Public Library, Forty-second Street and Fifth Avenue, expends about \$750,000 annually. The branches cost \$840,000 more for the Borough of Manhattan alone. The New York Public Library has income-producing endowments of over \$14,000,000. The Library of Congress has only one endowment, the Hubbard fund, amounting to \$20,000.

NEEDS.

1. Additional shelving.

A bookstack is needed to occupy the northeast courtyard. Provision for it has been included in the estimates for each of the past four years. Apparently approved in principle, action has been deferred (1) because of the war, (2) because costs are still high.

The collections must grow indefinitely and the accommodation for them is necessary. After the northeast stack an addition to the rear, possibly, or preferably an auxiliary building on the block to the eastward with tunnel connection.

2. Additional expert service.

3. A salary scale sufficient to secure and retain competent experts as against the competition of—

- (1) Other Government establishments.
- (2) Universities and colleges.
- (3) Other research corporations.
- (4) Business.

I do not want to close without a final statement of the Government's possibilities in research service. This Library is a complete satisfaction to the perturbed soul of the scholarly Edward Everett, who years ago exclaimed "Who can see without shame that the Federal Government of America is the only Government in the civilized world that has never founded a literary institution of any description or sort?" The answer to that cry is the world's finest research center.

TWO MORE STEPS NECESSARY.

To complete the scheme of housing the Government's records steps have already been taken to erect a modern archives building. The necessity of this building has long been apparent, and its location and erection will doubtless take place in the near future. The universal approval is evidenced by the unanimous action of the House creating a commission with authority to proceed to select a site. Further procedure was interrupted by the war.

One other step is necessary to make the largest use of the Capital as the world's greatest center for scholarship—a national university as a research institution to utilize the vast library sources and the laboratory facilities connected with the various departments of the Government, rich beyond those of any other country on the globe.

Mr. Speaker, these two additional steps are necessary to fulfill the dream of the devotees of learning. They would at once give this Capital the first rank of all capitals as the world's greatest intellectual center—a mecca to which the scholars of the future will come to add to the sum total of knowledge. This consummation is easily within our reach. [Applause.]

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